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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/651,859	08/29/2003	Alphons A.M.L. Bruekers	PHN 17,536B	9452
24737	7590	08/30/2006	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			RAO, ANAND SHASHIKANT	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			2621	

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/651,859	BRUEKERS ET AL.	
	Examiner Andy S. Rao	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 42-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 42-56 and 58-65 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 66 and 67 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 57 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/29/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 57 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a dependent claim cannot depend from itself. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, claim 57 has not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 66-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims are directed towards a record carrier comprising a composite information signal. However, claims that recite nothing but the physical characteristics of a form of energy, such as a frequency, voltage, and magnetic field strength are non-statutory natural phenomena, *O'Reilly*, 56 U.S. (15 How.) at 112-14. Moreover, it does not appear that a claim reciting a signal encoded with functional descriptive material falls within any of the categories of patentable subject matter set forth under 35 U.S.C. 101. For instance, a claimed signal is clearly not a "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 because it is not a series of steps.

The other three classes of machine, compositions of matter, and manufactures “relate to structural entities and can be grouped as ‘product’ claims in order to contrast them with process claims.” 1 D. Chisum, Patents § 1.02 (1994). The three product classes have traditionally required physical structure or material, *Interim Guidelines, Annex IV, Section (c)*.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 42-56, and 57-65 are allowed.

Independent claims 43, 55, and 56 recite “...generating first mapping information and a plurality of m sets of prediction filter coefficients, where m is an integer for which holds $1 \leq m \leq n$, said first mapping information and m sets of prediction filter coefficients being representative of said n sets of prediction filter coefficients for said n channels, and for generating second mapping information and a plurality of p probability tables, where p is an integer for which holds $1 \leq p \leq n$, said second mapping information and p probability tables being representative of said n probability tables for said n channels...” which are features that are not anticipated nor obvious over the art of record. Dependent claims 43-54, and 58-65 are allowed for the same reasons. Accordingly, if the dependent of claim 57 were clarified by amendment and if rejected claims 66-67 are canceled, the application would be placed in a condition for allowance.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Rault discloses a digital transmission system using subband coding of a digital signal.

Todd discloses a low-bit-rate high resolution spectral envelope coding for an audio encoder and decoder. Levine discloses lossless data compression with low complexity. Van Der Vleuten discloses an arithmetic encoding and decoder of an information signal. Bruekers discloses an efficient coding of side information in a lossless encoder.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andy S. Rao whose telephone number is (571)-272-7337. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571)-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Andy S. Rao
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2621

ANDY RAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

asr
August 28, 2006